

Advocates for Keeping Chicago Area Water System Open Amid Asian Carp Controversy

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence cosponsored legislation that would require the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a comprehensive economic impact study on the effects of closing the Chicago Area Water System in an effort to prevent the Asian carp from establishing populations in the Great Lakes.

Pence's statement follows:

"Anyone who has taken more than a passing glance at the issue of Asian carp recognizes that this is a serious but manageable threat to the Great Lakes region. It deserves the continued attention of Congress, the Administration and the states within the Great Lakes region, but closing the Chicago Area Water System would have a devastating effect on Hoosier jobs and the ports of Indiana.

"The separation of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River would cost thousands of jobs and cause great harm to the many Hoosiers who manufacture and grow our products. In fact, according to a study by the Ports of Indiana, commerce through the Chicago locks is responsible for \$1.9 billion in economic activity and nearly 18,000 jobs in the Hoosier state. In addition to the economic damage, there is no evidence that closing off the waterway will definitely keep the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

"I thank Congressman Visclosky for introducing this thoughtful piece of legislation and I look forward to continuing the bipartisan work of protecting the ecosystem, commerce and enjoyment of the Great Lakes."

Indiana employers reliant on the Chicago Area Water System include the BP Whiting Refinery, the Safety-Kleen Refinery, ArcelorMittal Steel Indiana Harbor, ArcelorMittal Steel Burns Harbor

and U. S. Steel.